Com' Concil' tent' in Camera *Guihald'* Civitat' *LONDON*, die *Martis* Undecimo die *Septembris*, Anno Regni Domini & Dominæ Noſtrorum, WILLIELMI & MARIÆ, nunc Regis & Reginæ, *Angliæ*, &c. Sexto: Coram *Willielmo Aſhhurſt* Milite, Major' dictæ Civitatis, *Johanne Moore* Milite, *Roberto Jeoffreys* Mil', *Johanne Fleet* Mil', *Salathiel Lovell* Mil', Servien' ad Legem ac Recordat' dictæ Civitat', *Petro Daniell* Mil', *Richardo Levit* Mil', *Thoma Cooke* Mil', Alderman', & *Thoma Abney* Mil' & *Willielmo Hedges* Vic' & Alderman' dictæ Civitatis; Necnon Major' parte Communiar' dictæ Civitat' in eodem Com' Concil' tunc & ibidem Aſſemblat'.

An ACT *of* Common Council *for Regulating the Company of* MASONS, London.

WHEREAS the Maſter, Wardens, Aſſiſtants and Comminalty of the Art or Myſtery of MASONS of the City of LONDON, now are and very Anciently have been a Brotherhood, and long ſince Incorporated, and for Confirmation of Their PRIVILEDGES, Have obtained ſeveral ROYAL GRANTS, whereby

(and by their Original Constitution) they ought to consist and be, of all Persons using the Trade of a Mason, within the City of LONDON and Liberties thereof. Notwithstanding which, many Persons, who Use and Exercise the Trade of MASONARY, (but more especially since the late dreadful Fire which hapned in London) procured themselves to be made Free of other Companies by Patrimony, Redemption and otherwise, contrary to their known Duty, and to the great Prejudice and Hindrance of the Company of Masons, to the end they may be without any Regulation and Restriction, either in the Price or substantial Management of their Work; by means and occasion whereof many and great Frauds and Deceits have been practised upon the Citizens of the said City, and other their Majesties Subjects, for want of that due Inspection into Artificers Exercising the said Trade, in regard such Artificers are not subject to the Government of the said COMPANY, and the good and wholsom LAWS and ORDINANCES thereof.

For Remedy and Reformation whereof, and to the intent the aforesaid Mischiefs may be prevented in time to come, and to the end the said Company may hereafter have free and absolute View, Search and Oversight of Things pertaining to the said Trade, and to the due Workmanship thereof, and Punishing all Frauds, Defects, Unskilful Workmanship, and other Offences therein: Be it Enacted, Established and Ordained by the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Commons in this Common Council Assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That all and every Person or Persons, hereafter Using or Exercising the Art or Mystery of Masonary within the said City of London and Liberties thereof, who hath or shall have Right and Priviledge to be made Free by Patrimony or otherwise, by virtue of his or their Father's Freedom in any other Company, whereof his said Father was, is or shall be Free, or by Service with any Freeman of any other Company, shall (at the next Court of Assistants of the said Company of Masons, after Notice thereof to him given, by the Clerk or Beadle of the said Company, by Order of the

the Master and Wardens of the same Company for the time being) accept and take upon himself the Freedom, and be made a Free man of the said Company of Masons, in like manner and form as he might or should have been in such Company, whereof his Father or Master was so Free as aforesaid; Any Law, Custom or Usage of the said City to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding.

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Person or Persons, using, or which shall hereafter use the Art or Mystery of MASONARY within the City of London, or Liberties thereof, who hath already served an Apprenticeship, or shall hereafter serve an Apprenticeship in the said Trade, and not yet made Free of the said City, or who shall procure his Freedom by Redemption, Service or Patrimony of any other Company, than of the said Company of Masons, and shall use the said Art or Mystery; That then all and every such Person and Persons so doing and offending in all, either or any of the said Cases, shall forfeit and pay for every such Offence, the Sum of Ten Pounds of Lawful Money of England, to be Recovered by Action of Debt, Bill or Plaint, to be Commenced or Prosecuted in the Name of the CHAMBERLAIN of the City of London, for the Time being, in Their MAJESTIES Court in the Chamber of Guild-Hall in the City of London, before the LORD MAYOR and ALDERMEN of the same City, for the Recovery thereof. And that the said Chamberlain of the said City for the Time being, in all Suits to be prosecuted by virtue of this present Act, shall Recover the ordinary Costs of Suit to be Expended in Prosecution of the same. But in case the said Chamberlain shall be Nonsuited, or a Verdict shall pass for the Defendant in any Action so to be brought as aforesaid, by Virtue of this ACT, that then and in such case the said Chamberlain shall, from time to time be saved harmless and indemnified, by the Master, Wardens, Assistants and Comminalty of the said Art or Mystery of MASONS, or by such other Person or Persons who shall be Informers, and cause

cause such Actions to be brought, whereupon such Nonsuit or Verdict shall happen as aforesaid.

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That one Moiety of all Forfeitures to be Recovered by Virtue of this ACT (the Charges of the Suit being first deducted) shall be paid to the Chamberlain of the said City for the time being, to the Use of the Lord Mayor, Comminalty and Citizens of the same City; and the other Moiety of the same Forfeitures to be Paid unto the Master, Wardens, Assistants and Comminalty of the said Company of MASONS, for the Use of the Poor of the said Company.

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That no Person or Persons, Using or Exercising the said Art or Mystery of MASONARY, shall be from henceforth Admitted by the Chamberlain of the said City of London, into the Freedom and Liberties of the said City in any other Company, than in the said Company of MASONS; Any Law or Custom of the said City to the contrary notwithstanding.

Goodfellow.

Andrews.

Printed by *Samuel Roycroft*, Printer to the Honourable City of *London*. 1694.

GUILDHALL LIBRARY